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Situational Awareness

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Situational Awareness



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What is situational awareness ?

Can be defined as :

Knowing what's going on by scanning your environment

What exactly am I looking for? How do I know if I am paying attention to the right things? Are there behaviours or warning signs of an imminent threat that I should know about?

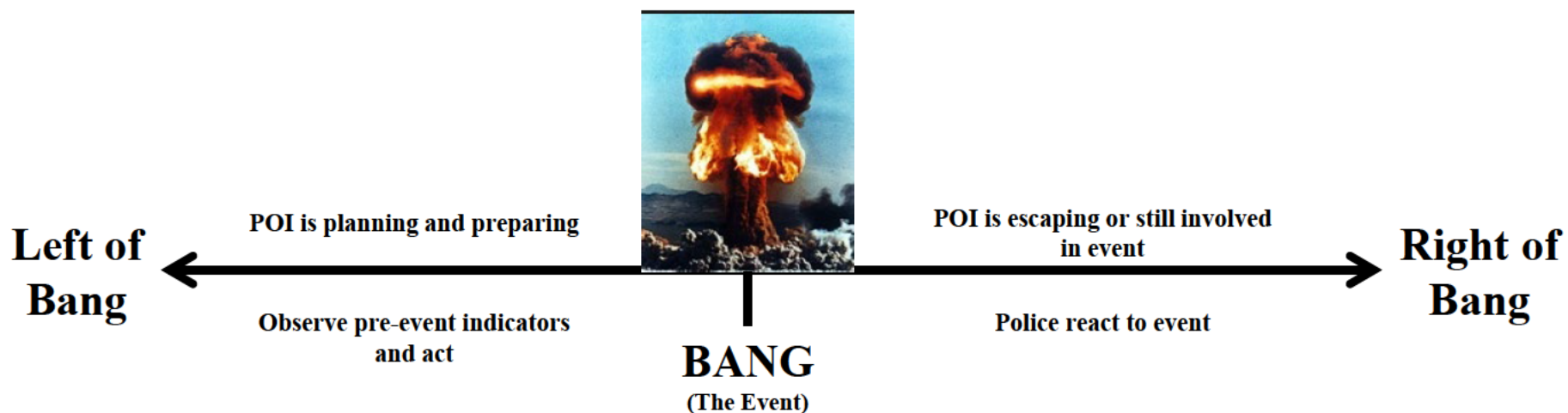
To develop situational awareness we need to understand the "left of bang" concept





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Left of Bang



“Left of Bang” can be described as a timeline of an incident where “Bang” is the incident. The left is the lead up to the incident and the right is after the incident has occurred.

We want to remain “Left of Bang” using indicators to assist us in identifying threats

To do this we need to develop our situational awareness. We can do this by understanding the OODA Loop.



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OODA Loop

The OODA Loop is a decision cycle developed by military strategist John BOYD

OODA Loop combines the process of observe, orient, decide and act.

All decisions are based on observations of the evolving situation tempered with filtering of the problem being addressed

A learning system that allows you to identify anomalies in a changing environment



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Baseline

A baseline is a starting point for assessment

The baseline is made up of patterns that individuals, groups and the environment set for future comparison

Baseline Process

1. Conduct your search
2. Determine your environment (Habitual or Anchor Point)
3. Assess your behavioural clusters

Observe / Orient/ Decide/ Act



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By observing and taking into account new information about our changing environment, our minds become an open system rather than a closed one, and we are able to gain the knowledge and understanding that's crucial in forming new mental models

Observe

- Your state of focus and awareness
- Take in your surroundings with all your senses
- Stay relaxed – stressors create a narrow focus causing us to miss important details in our environment

Orient

- You have to know what you're looking for
- Establish a baseline. What's going on here? What's the general mood of the place? What's the normal activity I should expect here? What cues cause a person to stand out from the baseline?
- It is from the baseline you can identify anomalies

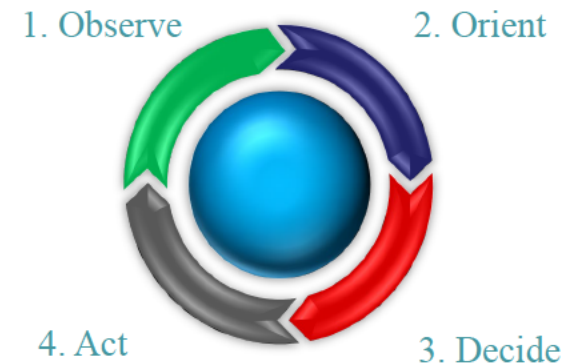
Observe + Orient = Situational Awareness

Decide

- With anomalies, what are you going to do about it
- If this happens, then what? Decide on your mental model

Act

- Do something



Hasty vs Deliberate Search



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As part of the “Observe” element and to assist in establishing a baseline you need to conduct a search of the environment.

Two types of searches:

Hasty Search : the first thing people do when they walk into any environment (Positive/ Negative/ Comfortable/ Uncomfortable).

The Hasty search is to identify any immediate threat. By quickly assessing whether the mood is positive or negative you are taking the first step towards setting the baseline.

Deliberate Search : An in-depth look at the processes, patterns and behaviours that make up the baseline for the area they are in.

In both searches you are looking for indicators and anomalies to the baseline

Behavioural Clusters



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In determining your baseline and identifying anomalies it is important to understand your environment and break down people, situations and the environment into its component parts using the four pillars of observable behaviour. These four pillars provide enough information to get a comprehensive understanding of a situation without slowing the decision-making process.

The four pillars are:

Pillar 1: Individuals:

People displaying one of the four clusters of behaviour: Dominant, Submissive, Uncomfortable, or Comfortable.

Pillar 2: Groups of People:

The relationship between members of a group are: Intimate, Personal, Acquaintances, Strangers

Pillar 3: Environment:

Places are either: Habitual areas or anchor points

People are either: Familiar or unfamiliar with their surroundings

Pillar 4: The Collective:

Places have either: Positive atmospherics or negative atmospherics



Anomalies/ Indicators

Determining Anomalies

- Deviation from your baseline
- Someone who does not fit the atmosphere
- A sudden change in mood
- An immediate negative atmosphere

Indicators

- Look at their hands
- Checking their “six”, looking around
- Movement that goes against the flow
- Are their arms crossed
- Clothing (Masks)
- Dominant behaviours
- Giving direction to others
- Facial expressions



Boston Bombing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4L7UIatts0>

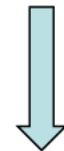
Informed Situational Awareness



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Observe + Orient = Situational Awareness



Observe + Orient + Intelligence = Informed Situational Awareness





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Questions ?